

Minutes
Loudoun County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 6, 2019 6:00pm

Chair - Sharon Tropf

Vice Chair of Membership - Heidi Bunkua

Vice Chair of Communication – Craig Metz

Vice Chair of Planning – Shehnaz Khan

Immediate Past Chair – Dr. Carol Williams-Nickelson (absent)

Secretary – Kathryn Rosenbrook

Attendees: A quorum of required number of SEAC voting members was confirmed with Vice Chair of Membership with 11 out of 14 members present.

I. Welcome and Introduction

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

II. Review Previous Meeting Minutes.

- Review of meeting minutes from October 2, 2019. No concerns, minutes were accepted and adopted.

III. Public Comments.

- Katrecia Nolan, MSAAC Chair gave a public announcement about the upcoming MSAAC and SEAC joint MSAAC & SEAC meeting regarding Closing the Gap on Discipline Disparities on Wednesday, November 20th 7:00PM – 9:00PM at the LCPS Administration building.

IV. Reports and Updates.

A. SEAC Chair, Sharon Tropf

- Review of the Annual Report. Working to pared down to about 60 pages. Commendations were provided to Parent Resource Services for the presentations being provided to families, the formation of unified mental health teams at middle and high schools, art programs made available to middle and high school special education students, and the social /emotional curriculum being rolled out at the elementary school level. While there have been many positive steps forward there is still much work to be done especially in the areas of restraint/seclusion, transition services, consistent implementation of IEPs, consistency with implementing the guidelines for student observations, early Dyslexia screenings, provision of AT evaluations and services, retaliation, and review and adjustments to the social and emotional skills curriculum for special education students.

B. Executive Committee.

No report at this time

C. Membership.

Heidi Bunkua

- PTA/PTO 54 schools have reps SEAC membership currently 14, 7 open positions, 2 applications sent to School Board, newest member is Jessica Rudd

D. Communication.

Craig Metz

- No report at the time

E. Planning.

Shehnaz Khan

- Upcoming meetings: Executive Committee on November 18, 2019 at Panera. Joint meeting with MSAAC on November 20, 2019, Presentation by Dr. Jonathan Dalton at the December 4, 2019 SEAC meeting. Printed flyers were made available for the upcoming presentations.

F. School Board Liaison.

Chris Croll (Attached)

G. Dept of Pupil Services.

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services

- Absent on business, Dr. Nelson to present.

H. Office of Special Education.

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education

- Live streaming of SEAC meetings is now happening effective with today's meeting,
- electronic sign in or QR codes is being worked on at this time,
- the review of Level Literacy Intervention (LLI) book reviews is being conducted by Michelle Picard. It is anticipated her final report will be completed by the beginning of December.
- Save the Date for Mental Health and Wellness-January 11, 2020
- IEP meeting survey with GMU is in progress to get feedback on the IEP process.
- Department of Pupil Services Administrative Team has created an online help directory that includes each team member's name, pictures, position, phone #, and email address.

I. Subcommittees Formation.

Unable to establish due to time limitations, deferred.

J. Parent Resource Services.

Pamela Spiering Five new workshops, independent of each other, flyers available at the meeting. Additional information available on the website.

K. Business.

a) Policy Subcommittee Policy Review and Recommendations

- Disciplinary Procedures for Students with Disabilities, Proposed Policy 5344

- Discussion of disciplinary procedures for students with disabilities proposed policy. Many members of the audience brought concerns regarding suspensions, amount of training received by staff members, and the amount of communication between the staff and family. Behaviors do not always transfer from home to school or school to home. LCPS is willing to offer wrap around services if needed. The goal is for family and school team work together collaboratively and proactively. Communication is key.
- Membership Vote on Policy Committee Recommendations:
 - Recommendation 1- unanimous
 - Recommendation 2- unanimous
 - Recommendation 3-unanimous
 - Recommendation 4- unanimous
 - Recommendation 5- unanimous

L. Adjourn 9:33

School Board Update for SEAC ~ November 6, 2019

Chris Croll (chris.croll@lcps.org)

Since our last SEAC meeting, the School Board

- Adopted a proclamation recognizing November 11-15, 2019 as School Psychologists' Week
- Adopted Policy 5011, Unstructured Activity Time
- Adopted Policy 6120, Wellness
- Extended the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Equity to June, 2020
- Adopted a School Calendar for school year 2020-2021 (calendar D with two amendments)
- Adopted Policy 5030 Assessment & Grading

We have a regular SB meeting on Nov. 12 but then we are adding policy work to end of our special meeting of the Board on Nov. 19. Some policies that will be presented as Info items at these two meetings which may interest SEAC families include...(you can read drafts on Board Docs in each of these committee meetings)

- Bullying Prevention and Education (SSS Committee) Policy 8250
- Non-School Employment (HRTD Committee) Policy 7250
- Field Trips (C&I Committee) Policy 5070
- Equal Opportunity Employment (HRTD) Policy 7012
- Environments Free from Harassment, Discrimination and Abuse (HRTD) Policy 7014
- Professional Conduct (HRTD) Policy 7560
- Appeals and Hearings (Discipline Committee) Policy 8230

Communications & Outreach Committee

The division greatly appreciates all the feedback that parents, staff and other community members provided for the communications audit. There were approximately 5,600 parents, 1,600 employees and 70 other community representatives who completed the online surveys. 120 participants in 17 focus groups.

Highlights:

- 80% parents "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with the statement, "I perceive communication from my child's school to be timely, accurate, open and trustworthy."
- 60% or more of parents thought communication was "Excellent" or "Very Good" about:
 - their child's progress in school,
 - student conduct expectations and discipline policies
 - extra and co-curricular offerings and requirements
 - PTA/PTO programs

- More than 70% of parents said they “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed” that communication from the division is timely, open, transparent and trustworthy
- 57% of parents rated the quality of communication during crises or serious events as “Excellent” or “Very Good.”
- There are lower levels of satisfaction with the communication about division priorities, plans and goals, and budget and finance information, among other topics
- Full report is coming soon
- Staff presented the internal “School Emergencies and Unusual Events Reporting and Communicating” process and flow diagram
- The committee reviewed the first draft of a Crisis Communications Policy (on Board Docs)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

- We are continuing to review Policy 5130 Textbook Adoption
- We are soon going to review Policy 5-7 Selection & Review of Instructional Materials
- We are continuing to review Strategic Actions

Human Resources & Talent Development Committee

- We finalized the job description of the School Board Assistants (will take effect in 2020)

School Business Partnership Executive Council

- Job for a Day, scheduled for November 13 exceeded this year's targets for companies to participate. LCPS has 51 businesses offering 342 jobs that day for students (high school students can sign up for job slots in their Career Center)

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

- The GEAC committee did not meet in October, the next meeting is tomorrow, November 7 and included on the agenda is an EDGE program update

Three personal updates...

- I am leaving at 6:30pm tonight to watch my son play in his first ever playoff baseball game. He's in the Juniors division (7th grade) and he is my ADHD/Tourette Syndrome kiddo and this is a really big deal. He is having a stellar season and I am super proud of him. He has to overcome a lot to perform well in sports...I know SEAC parents understand.
- I will be having hip surgery in Boston the week before Thanksgiving. Depending on my recovery, I may or may not be able to attend the December SEAC meeting or I may

attend using my wheelchair or crutches. I mention this b/c I didn't want anyone to think I was blowing off my last SEAC meeting as a Board member. I'll be here if I can be.

- Speaking of wheelchairs...I have been reading all of the challenged books from the diversity collection. In the book, "The Season of You and Me," there is a rated PG scene of a teenage boy who is a paraplegic getting sexually aroused by a teenage girl friend of his. I can't help but wonder if the reason folks are so offended by this content is because they are not used to thinking of disabled people as having a sex life. I encourage you to read the books yourselves and, if so moved, to speak out how about important it is for students to see diverse characters on the pages of books. This is a high school junior level book. I will read all four of the challenged books before the end of my term so I can make a recommendation to staff, if necessary, to re-level the books. Please send any thoughts on the books you've read to me via email chris.croll@lcps.org.

Presentation by Heather Applegate & Desire Vyas

Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Considerations

Description of testing used to identify students with dyslexia- a multimethod and multisource approach is used. The determination begins with a review of early milestones and proceeds through the routine testing that is required beginning in kindergarten. PALS is utilized in kindergarten and 1st grade. MAP testing begins in 2nd grade. It was noted that MAP doesn't include basic reading skills. If a child does not perform at 40% then additional testing is done to include the DRA and FAST which include a phonics assessment. During grades 3rd through 5th grade again if the 40% criteria is not met then further assessments are conducted. In 6th through 8th grades MAP is used as well. Students are referred for further assessments to help determine underachievement gaps. Many audience members had various concerns regarding the determination of eligibility.